

THE SONG SPARROW

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October 2007



Above: Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Francis Bossé, July Photo of the Month.

Left: Least Bittern by Chuck Kling, August Photo of the Month.

The Big Year of Birding

Gasp! It's hard to believe, but true. The year is winding down and the colder weather is on its way. But just because the weather has turned cold is no reason to put away your binoculars... especially with the bulk of Big Year of Birding prizes (close to \$4,500) still to be won.

We look forward to crowning a Big Year champion. All indications point to a tight race and some astonishing numbers. First, second and third prizes are up for grabs along with a prize in the 17-and-under category. With fall just freshly arrived, we remind you that now is a good time to check your list to see which bird species you need to target before they migrate south and disappear for the year. We hope that you've been keeping good track of your observations and expect your submissions before 15 January 2008. At this stage, it's still anybody's win!

Our photo contest has proven quite popular, with an average of forty photographs submitted monthly. We continue to encourage you; winter in particular can be an inspiring time and can provide dramatic photo opportunities.

So on those cold days just bundle up, stay warm and keep on birding!

Big Year of Birding Committee

Congratulations to our July and August winners:

July: Lance Laviolette - 138 species; Francis Bossé - Photo of the Month
August: Wayne Grubert - 113 species; Chuck Kling - Photo of the Month

Christmas Bird Count

The dates of the 2007 Montreal and Hudson Christmas Bird Counts have been set. Mark them on your calendar and plan on taking part in the oldest and largest citizen science event in the world. Contact the Coordinators to let them know you can participate.

Montreal: Saturday 15 December
Coordinator: Jeff Harrison
514-486-4943
Email: dha@videotron.ca

Hudson: Saturday 29 December
Coordinator: Alison Bentley
450-458-8076

Email: alison.bentley@sympatico.ca

More information on page 5.

Message From Our President

Late summer newspapers made dreary reading for Montreal nature enthusiasts: development planned for Île Charron; the Highway 440 connector to cut through Île Bizard and L'Anse-à-l'Orme, suburbanites complaining about too many birds in their yards and, most recently, deep cuts to the Canadian Wildlife Service budget. We feel so helpless in the face of powerful private ownership, public planners and even friends and neighbours who don't share our passion for birds, nature and the environment. What can we do?

In the case of Île Charron, which is contiguous with the *Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville* at the east end of Montreal Island, we can sign the petition launched by the *Conseil régional de l'environnement de la Montérégie*, the *Conseil régional de l'environnement de Montréal* and *Nature Québec* at www.cremtl.qc.ca. The press release from the organizers reminds us that the 24-hectare property includes 18 hectares of wooded area, rare on the islands in the St. Lawrence. The poplars, elms and willows, resting spots for migrating birds, homes for nesters, carbon dioxide filters for humans and animals alike, are to be replaced with 2500 condos!

The land to be used for the Highway 440 connector is already owned by the Ministry of Transport and the project would no doubt be supported by many commuters who face stagnant traffic on St. Charles Boulevard and St. John's Boulevard day after day getting to and from school, work and play. The best we can do is protest the potential loss of our wonderful Île Bizard Nature Park by writing to the Minister of Transport, Minister of the Environment and to our members of the National Assembly.

Cuts to the Canadian Wildlife Service announced in September will freeze its service budget for the rest of the fiscal year, meaning that all its scientific field and survey work has been halted, according to the news report. The Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network, which observes changes in ecosystems, has lost 80 percent of its budget. The Migratory Bird Program, which monitors the health of bird populations, has seen its budget cut by 50 percent. The budget for the National Wildlife Areas, a program that protects nationally significant habitats for wildlife and birds, has been slashed from \$1.9 million to zero. The federal environment ministry says, "Spending is being prioritized for climate change." We say, "Maybe."

And what about those pesky "blackbirds" on Beaconsfield Court? The more the merrier, in our opinion. They won't be here for long. Come February, we'll be longing for a "murder" of crows to remind us that spring will be coming soon.

Nature note. At Lac St-Pierre recently, a study in contrasts: on a sandy spit, well out into the lake, a magnificent Bald Eagle, cooling its toes in the wet sand; in the tall grasses up the bank, a black and gold gem of a spider, surveying its diminutive world from the centre of a perfectly constructed web.

Good birding all,

Eve Marshall

Bird Protection Quebec Monthly Meetings

5 November, 3 December 2007,

7 January, 4 February, 3 March, 7 April, 5 May 2008

Meetings are held at 8:00 PM at:

Knox Crescent Kensington and First Presbyterian Church
6225 Godfrey Avenue, NDG

Bird Protection Quebec



■ Observation ■ Education ■ Conservation

Bird Protection Quebec is the operational name of The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds.

Established 4 January 1917

Officers

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Vice-Presidents	Jeff Harrison Helen Meredith
Hon. Vice-Presidents	Robert Carswell Felix Hilton Mabel McIntosh Peter Mitchell
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Bird Protection Quebec/PQSPB is a registered charity.

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All donations are tax deductible.

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**Deadline for the next newsletter:
12 November 2007**



Left: The embryo of a Muscovy Duck, incubated for 28 days. The cartilage is stained blue and the bone is stained red. The total incubation period of a Muscovy Duck is 35 days.

Photo by Erin Maxwell

Avian Skeletal Development and Evolutionary History

with Erin Maxwell

Monday 3 December 2007 at 8:00 PM

The relationship between evolution and development has been subject to a great deal of speculation by biologists. Most now agree that a group's skeletal development changes over its evolutionary history. The reasons for this are many and complex. The order in which bones form in birds is influenced by a number of developmental factors, the bird's shape and environmental adaptations. Some or all of these factors may affect the sequence of development, and can be difficult to isolate since they often interact with one another. The degree to which these variables affect bone formation is not consistent across all birds or all vertebrates.

While scientists understand that these factors help drive evolutionary change, there is no consensus on the utility of comparing skeletal development across orders so as to reconstruct evolutionary relationships among species. By comparing the order of bone formation across the major groups of birds during embryonic development, some patterns become obvious, such as the limb bones and some skull elements forming early in all species, while others, such as the braincase and the vertebral column, always forming later.

Erin is in the final year of her Ph.D studies at McGill University. She is looking at the order in which bones form in the embryos of multiple bird groups (the Double-crested Cormorant, several species of ducks, gallinaceous birds and shorebirds, the Emu and the Ostrich) and analyzing which factors are most important in determining this sequence. She hopes to determine how changes in this sequence affect avian evolution and life history. This research shows great potential to address questions regarding how development affects vertebrate evolution.

Jeff Harrison

Winter Bird Course

Stay sharp over the winter; hone your bird identification skills by taking BPQ's winter bird course.

Dates: (alternate Wednesdays) 13 and 27 February, 12 and 26 March.

Time: 7 to 9 PM.

Place: To be determined.

Cost: \$50 for four evenings or \$15 per session.

Further details and registration forms will soon be available on our website and in the next newsletter.

Suggestions Sought

Members are invited to submit names of prospective candidates for the Board of Directors of Bird Protection Quebec. If you are interested in serving on the Board yourself or know someone who you think would serve us well, please send a brief résumé to Rodger Titman, c/o Department of Natural Resource Sciences, Macdonald Campus, 21,111 Lakeshore, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC H9X 3V9; email: rodger.titman@mcgill.ca.

Nominations to sit on our Board can come from the Nominating Committee or from members in good standing who may also put a nomination forward separately. Elections or confirmation of a proposed slate occur at our Annual General Meeting held in May.

Rodger Titman, Chair, Nominating Committee

New Members

A warm welcome to new and returning members: Jessica Godin-Venneman, St. George Clarenceville; Lori Litvack & Anne Gagnon, Montreal; Denis Ramharry, Westmount; Solange Raymond, Westmount; Stephane Samuel, St. George Clarenceville; Chris Simmons, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue and Robert Armstrong & Suzanne Aubry, Montreal. We look forward to seeing you on our field trips and at our monthly meetings. Good birding!

Facilitators Needed

Facilitators are needed to help the Education Committee fulfill presentation requests. This is a great opportunity to talk about and share your passion for birds while inspiring both young and old alike. An honorarium may be available to help defray travel costs.

Please contact Lynn Miller, 450-458-2169; email: mbeland@securenet.net; or Barbara MacDuff, 514-457-2222; email: barb.macduff@sympatico.ca.

Project FeederWatch

Project FeederWatch is an annual survey of North American birds that visit backyard feeders in winter. FeederWatchers periodically count the highest numbers of each species they see at their feeders from November through early April. The 2007-08 Project FeederWatch season begins on 10 November 2007 and ends on 4 April 2008. To learn more about Project FeederWatch or to register, write to Project FeederWatch, Bird Studies Canada, P.O. Box 160, 115 Front Street, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0 or email: pfw@bsc-eoc.org.

Larry Neily's Canadian Listers' Corner 2007

Lists to 31 December 2006

Listing birds is fun. It satisfies one's collector's instinct and, if you have a competitive streak, it feeds that need as well. This is why more and more birders subscribe to Larry Neily's Canadian Listers' Corner. There were 105 respondents in the latest report, which represents a healthy increase over the previous year. There are some extraordinary records in the report. For example Martin Edwards of Kingston, Ontario, has seen an amazing 7889 of the World's 9838 species and all 204 of the bird families. Among our members, there were some substantial gains in the numbers of new birds recorded in their World Lists, led by Mark Dennis with a impressive increase of 241 species.

Established by Gerry Bennett in 1981, published yearly since, edited by a succession of outstanding Canadian listing editors, it has since its inception been the Canadian focus for many of BPQ's accomplished listers: Mabel McIntosh, Peter Mitchell, Peter Landry, Eric Tull (Editor 1990-95), Brooke Clibbon (PQSPB President 1984-87), Martin Bowman, Gillian Horgan, Guy Zenaitis, Steve Charlton, *inter alia*.

With Larry's kind permission, here are some extracts from a few of his lists with special reference to BPQ listers. If you have not yet joined the ranks of Canadian Listers' Corner, how-to-do-so info follows below.

Ilay Ferrier

Highlights from Larry Neily's CANADIAN LISTERS' CORNER 2007

Significant lifelist milestones reached/passed in 2006:

Eric Tull: 3000 - All Territories and Provinces Added Together (ATPAT); Steve Charlton: 2200 - World; Mark Dennis: - 1800 - World; Peter Mitchell: 1300 - World; Brooke Clibbon: 150 - World Families.

Figures in brackets indicate increase since 2005.

QUEBEC - 449 Species

Mabel McIntosh, Pte-Claire QC - 376
Guy Zenaitis, Montreal QC - 371
Ken Thorpe, Côte St-Luc QC - 306
Ilay Ferrier, Knowlton QC - 283
Eric Tull, Calgary AB - 273
Brooke Clibbon, Calgary AB - 236

Peter Mitchell, Weir QC - 374 (+4)
Peter Landry, Montreal QC - 344
Mark Dennis, St-Lazare QC - 292 (+10)
Steve Charlton, Pierrefonds QC - 277 (+1)
Martin Bowman, Williamstown ON - 265 (+7)
Gillian Horgan, Williamstown ON - 229 (+2)

CANADA - 643 Species

Eric Tull, Calgary AB - 483
Mabel McIntosh, Pte-Claire QC - 460
Guy Zenaitis, Montreal QC - 423
Ken Thorpe, Côte St-Luc QC - 402

Peter Mitchell, Weir QC - 464 (+6)
Brooke Clibbon, Calgary AB - 453 (+3)
Peter Landry, Montreal QC - 415
Ilay Ferrier, Knowlton QC - 365

ABA Area - 933 Species

Peter Landry, Montreal QC - 753
Eric Tull, Calgary AB - 656 (+2)
Martin Bowman, Williamstown ON - 635
Gillian Horgan, Williamstown ON - 631
Ken Thorpe, Côte St-Luc QC - 567

Steve Charlton, Pierrefonds QC - 718 (+2)
Mabel McIntosh, Pte-Claire QC - 640
Brooke Clibbon, Calgary AB - 631(+7)
Guy Zenaitis, Montreal QC - 573
Ilay Ferrier, Knowlton QC - 533

WORLD - 9838 Species

Steve Charlton, Pierrefonds QC - 2290 (+128)
Mabel McIntosh, Pte-Claire QC - 2102
Gillian Horgan, Williamstown ON - 2070 (+60)
Mark Dennis, St-Lazare QC - 1834 (+241)
Peter Mitchell, Weir QC - 1321 (+30)
Peter Landry, Montreal QC - 1208

Eric Tull, Calgary AB - 2148 (+37)
Martin Bowman, Williamstown ON - 2087 (+61)
Brooke Clibbon, Calgary AB - 1977 (+7)
Ilay Ferrier, Knowlton QC - 1359
Guy Zenaitis, Montreal QC - 1292 (+42)

WORLD FAMILIES - 204 Families

Martin Bowman, Williamstown ON - 153
Eric Tull, Calgary AB - 153 (+1)
Ilay Ferrier, Knowlton QC - 147
Peter Mitchell, Weir QC - 118

Gillian Horgan, Williamstown ON - 153
Brooke Clibbon, Calgary AB - 151 (+2)
Steve Charlton, Pierrefonds QC - 146

If you would like to receive Larry Neily's annual Canadian Listers' Corner, contact him by email: larry.neily@rogers.com, by snail mail (Canada Post): 124 Clarendon Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1Y 0R3, or (last resort) by telephone: 613-722-1633.

For next year's edition, Larry would like to receive lists to the end of December 2007 no later than 31 January 2008. For complete information and/or downloadable data entry forms, visit the Canadian Listers' Corner website at: <http://ca.geocities.com/neilyworld@rogers.com/listerscorner/listers-corner.htm>.

Montreal Christmas Bird Count

The Montreal CBC will take place on Saturday 15 December. An overview of the Count, a map of the Count circle, and results from past Counts are available on our website (www.pqspb.org/cbc_entry.htm). The Count circle is divided into sectors, observers are divided into teams, and each team covers a piece of the pie. Teams include novice as well as experienced birders. Fair weather or foul, it's a great excuse to get out with old friends and to make new ones.

If you live in the Count area, have a feeder, but can't participate in the field, we welcome you to participate as a FeederWatcher. Our website has instructions for FeederWatchers (English only) that will explain how you can participate, and a downloadable list of feeder birds.

Those who participated last year will be contacted in the late fall. If you are new to the Count and wish to become either a field participant or a FeederWatcher, please contact Jeff Harrison (see details on page 1).

There will be an informal social event and compilation of results immediately after the Count. The meeting place and other details will be available to you on our website and through your team leader. Hope to see you on 15 December.

Jeff Harrison

Hudson Christmas Bird Count

The Hudson CBC will take place on Saturday 29 December and will require about 50-60 keen people in the field, split into 17 different parties. Team leaders from last year will be receiving a list of previous volunteers and are asked to contact them to confirm involvement. We are always looking for new observers; please let me know if you would like to be assigned to a group. People who requested a change of route last year should contact me ASAP, so that we can discuss options.

The Hudson Count area stretches from Île Perrot west to partway up Mont Rigaud and from Valleyfield north to Oka. There are many different habitats and both walking and driving options are available.

Once the birds have been counted, we will meet together to compile the results, eat chili and soup, enjoy each other's company and brag of our sightings! Contributions of supplementary foodstuffs are always welcome. This year the post count get-together will be chez Bentleys at 106 Selkirk, Hudson. Please contact Alison Bentley (see details on page 1) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

Alison Bentley

An Enchantment of Birds: *Memories from a Birder's Life*

Richard Cannings, Illustrations by Donald Gunn

Greystone Books May 2007 ISBN: 978-1-55365-235-9

Born into a birding family, wildlife biologist and ecologist Dick Cannings was a birder practically from birth, and he has been active in the field all his life. He is well known to Canadian birders as an organizer of breeding bird surveys and population censuses. He is the Bird Studies Canada Coordinator of the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts.

In *An Enchantment of Birds*, each chapter is a vignette of an individual bird species. These vignettes provide a wealth of insights into the anatomy, evolution, habits and behaviour of the respective species as well as evoking landscapes and environments through richly eloquent prose. But not only does Dr. Cannings describe the characteristics of birds and the context in which he has seen or studied them, he also paints a vivid picture of his childhood in British Columbia and of a life devoted to the natural world.

From his earliest memories of the Western Meadowlark, which was his alarm clock when he was a small boy, Dr. Cannings takes us on an ornithological tour of Western Canada which will instill in the reader an instant desire to visit all the wonderfully described places and look for some of the intriguing and rare species that the author has encountered. Some that most of us would like to include on our Canadian list would be the tiny and difficult-to-find Flammulated Owl, the elusive and highly threatened White-headed Woodpecker, the well-camouflaged White-tailed Ptarmigan and the cartoon-character sea-birds of Triangle Island off the northern tip of Vancouver Island, which include Rhinoceros Auklet (a type of nocturnal puffin) and Tufted Puffin, both of which have extraordinary physiognomies. Dr. Cannings likens the Rhinoceros Auklets,

which are "heavy-set and have a conspicuous horn in the breeding season," to "dangerous projectiles as they rocket into the island like a cloud of small, heavy footballs" and characterizes Tufted Puffins as "the poster children of Triangle because of their outlandish bills and plumage." Many chapters of the book are set in the Okanagan Valley as Dr. Cannings is a special expert on the birds of this region, many of which you will encounter in *An Enchantment of Birds*. He is also a concerned observer and documenter of the decline of many of the area's species.

Dr Cannings also entertains us with accounts of the carryings-on of more common species, some of which are very well known to Eastern birders: the game-playing of American Crows; the incredible spatial memory skills of Clark's Nutcrackers, which cache huge numbers of seeds - sometimes as many as 100,000 in a season - remarkably remembering where they have hidden them; the bigamous tendencies of Northern Saw-whet Owls; and the breeding behaviour of Horned Larks. He studied the latter in Newfoundland - the only foray outside the northwest recorded in this book - where he also enjoyed an unusual local culinary speciality.

This delightful book is beautifully written and attractively illustrated with line drawings by Donald Gunn. It is extremely readable and brimming with fascinating ornithological facts and interesting anecdotes. I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys nature, birding and fine writing. You will learn a lot and re-savour the pleasure by dipping into it again and again.

Jean Bacon

Parlons d'oiseaux

Un bilan des observations intéressantes à Montréal
et à travers la province
par Pierre Bannon

Juin-août 2007

Bernache cravant: une à Sainte-Catherine 27-28 juin (R. Parisi). **Canard branchu:** un en bordure de la route de la baie James, un peu au nord de la rivière Rupert à la mi-juin (M. Medler). **Canard colvert:** deux entre Eastmain et Radisson à la mi-juin (L. Corriveau, S. Bouchard). **Canard souchet:** deux mâles à Kangiqsujuaq, Nunavik, 21-28 juin étaient très au nord (D. McMullen, *vide* M. Robert), bien que l'espèce ait déjà niché à Puvirnituaq, sur la côte de la baie d'Hudson en 2002. **Canard pilet:** cinq mâles au parc national Pingualuit le 23 juin, puis une femelle le 28 juillet étaient au nord de leur aire (M. Robert). **Fuligule à tête rouge:** jusqu'à trois mâles durant l'été aux Îles de la Madeleine, première mention estivale (O. Barden *et al.*). **Eider à duvet:** trois mâles sur le lac Mégantic le 13 juin, rare à l'intérieur des terres (C. Roy). **Arlequin plongeur:** un mâle sur la riv. Toulnostouc, au n.-e. de Baie-Comeau le 7 juin (M. Robert, C. Marcotte) et deux couples, chacun sur une rivière différente, au s.-o. de Kangiqsujuaq le 24 juin (M. Robert) permettent d'avoir une meilleure idée de la répartition estivale de cette espèce. **Grèbe jougris:** l'espèce se porte bien en Abitibi où 12 couples ont produit 17 jeunes sur quatre lacs différents près de Rouyn-Noranda (L. Imbeau). Un à Tadoussac le 29 juin était en dehors de son aire estival (M. Moisan, R. Pintiaux). **Fulmar boréal:** très répandu sur la Basse-Côte-Nord où 500+ furent dénombrés à partir du traversier Rimouski-Blanc-Sablon à la mi-juin (E. Samson *et al.*). **Puffin des Anglais:** un à Bergeronnes le 18 juillet (R. Pintiaux, M. Moisan). **Pélican d'Amérique:** une saison extraordinaire: un à Bécancour le 1^{er} juin (D. Poliquin), un à Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 2-3 juin (D. Paquette, *vide* D. Ouellette, ph.), un à Gatineau le 2 juin (M. Gosselin, M. Jacob), un à Saint-Timothée le 23 juin (D. Hugues, D. Guillemette, ph.), deux à Rouyn-Noranda le 26 juin (JP. Lacasse, ph.), deux près de l'embouchure de la riv. Yamaska le 2 juillet (M. Chabot), un à Plaisance le 22 juillet (D. Collins), un ad. à Saint-Coeur-de-Marie 26-27 juillet (N. Fortin, ph.) et finalement un à Carillon le 17 août (C. Boisvert). **Aigrette neigeuse:** des oiseaux à Yamachiche les 8 juin & 18 juillet (J. Gélinas, M. Bourassa) et à Saint-Barthélemy le 24 juin (M. & M. Boulard). **Aigrette bleue:** deux indiv. à La Martinique (IDLM) 4-20 juin (*vide* A. Richard) paraient le 20 juin (DG. Gaudet). **Aigrette tricolore:** des oiseaux à Saint-Damien-de-Buckland le 7 juin (R. Gingras, J. Forgues), Tadoussac le 25 août (R. Pintiaux) et Trois-Rivières le 27 août (R. Rebselj). **Héron garde-boeufs:** un à Lennoxville 12-17 juin (C. Jetté, JP. Charuest). **Ibis falcinelle:** des oiseaux au lac Georges (Anticosti) 10-11 juin (D. Morin) et au lac William le 2 sept (R. Gingras, L. Lemoine).

Pygargue à tête blanche: 14 oiseaux à Deschambault le 29 juillet représentaient un nombre estival élevé (S. Gosselin). **Aigle royal:** un ad. à Hemmingford le 28 juillet, inhabituel en été (E. Samson, A. Lacasse). **Gallinule poule-d'eau:** un oiseau entendu 19-23 juin aux IDLM, où l'espèce n'est qu'accidentelle (O. Barden *et al.*). **Grue du Canada:** premières confirmations de nidification pour l'extrême sud du Québec: un nid contenait un jeune à Dundee le 20 juin (P. Tarassoff, ph., pl. ob.), deux ad. avec deux jeunes de faible taille à Trois-Rivières le 28 juin (S. Hamel, D. Pronovost). Aussi, une famille de quatre oiseaux (deux ad., deux imm.) à Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides le 21 août

Birdviews

A summary of interesting bird sightings in Montreal
and around the province
by Pierre Bannon

June-August 2007

Brant: one at Sainte-Catherine 27-28 June (R. Parisi). **Wood Duck:** one along James Bay Road, a few km north of the Rupert R. in mid-June (M. Medler). **Mallard:** two between Eastmain and Radisson in mid-June (L. Corriveau, S. Bouchard). **Northern Shoveler:** two males at Kangiqsujuaq, in northern Nunavik 21-28 June, were out of range (D. McMullen, *vide* M. Robert), although the species is known to have nested at Puvirnituaq, on the coast of Hudson Bay, in 2002. **Northern Pintail:** five males in Pingualuit NP 23 June followed by a female 28 July were north of their current breeding range (M. Robert). **Redhead:** up to three males were reported throughout the period in the Magdalen Is., a first record there in summer (O. Barden *et al.*). **Common Eider:** three males on L. Mégantic 13 June, rare inland (C. Roy). **Harlequin Duck:** a male on the Toulnostouc R., northeast of Baie-Comeau 7 June (M. Robert, C. Marcotte) and single pairs on two different rivers southwest of Kangiqsujuaq 24 June (M. Robert) contributed to enrich our knowledge of the distribution of this species. **Red-necked Grebe:** the species is doing well in Abitibi where 12 pairs produced 17 young on four different lakes near Rouyn-Noranda (L. Imbeau). One at Tadoussac 29 June was out of its summer range (M. Moisan, R. Pintiaux). **Northern Fulmar:** widespread along the Lower North Shore; 500+ were counted from the Rimouski-Blanc-Sablon ferry in mid-June (E. Samson *et al.*). **Manx Shearwater:** one at Bergeronnes 18 July (R. Pintiaux, M. Moisan). **American White Pelican:** an excellent summer for this species with sightings of one at Bécancour 1 June (D. Poliquin), one at Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois 2-3 June (D. Paquette, *vide* D. Ouellette, ph.), one at Gatineau 2 June (M. Gosselin, M. Jacob), one at Saint-Timothée 23 June (D. Hugues, D. Guillemette, ph.), two at Rouyn-Noranda 26 June (JP. Lacasse, ph.), two near the mouth of the Yamaska R. 2 July (M. Chabot), one at Plaisance 22 July (D. Collins), an ad. at Saint-Coeur-de-Marie 26-27 July (N. Fortin, ph.), and finally one at Carillon 17 Aug (C. Boisvert). **Snowy Egret:** singles at Yamachiche 8 June & 18 July (J. Gélinas, M. Bourassa), and at Saint-Barthélemy 24 June (M. & M. Boulard). **Little Blue Heron:** two indiv. at La Martinique (Magdalen Is.) 4-20 June (*vide* A. Richard) were apparently displaying on 20 June (DG. Gaudet). **Tricolored Heron:** singles at Saint-Damien-de-Buckland 7 June (R. Gingras, J. Forgues), Tadoussac 25 Aug (R. Pintiaux), and Trois-Rivières 27 Aug (R. Rebselj). **Cattle Egret:** one at Lennoxville 12-17 June (C. Jetté, JP. Charuest). **Glossy Ibis:** singles at Lake Georges (Anticosti I.) 10-11 June (D. Morin) and at L. William 2 Sept (R. Gingras, L. Lemoine).

Bald Eagle: 14 birds at Deschambault 29 July represented a high summer count (S. Gosselin). **Golden Eagle:** an ad. at Hemmingford 28 July was locally rare in summer (E. Samson, A. Lacasse). **Common Moorhen:** one bird heard 19-23 June in the Magdalen Is., where the species occurs only accidentally (O. Barden *et al.*). **Sandhill Crane:** first confirmed breeding records for extreme southern Quebec: a nest containing a chick at Dundee 20 June (P. Tarassoff, ph., m. ob.), two ad. with a juvenile at Trois-Rivières 28 June (S. Hamel, D. Pronovost). Also, a family group of four birds (two ads., two imm.) at Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides 21 Aug (M. Sokolyk), two individuals at Saint-Édouard-de-Maskinongé 18 June (Y. Gauthier, S. Moran), three at

(M. Sokolyk), deux indiv. à Saint-Édouard-de-Maskinongé le 18 juin (Y. Gauthier, S. Moran), trois à Low le 16 juillet (J. Brûlé) et un à Gaspé tout l'été (D. Jalbert *et al.*). Un groupe de 102 oiseaux à Roquemaure, Abitibi, le 19 juin représentait un nombre estival record (P. Brousseau). **Courlis corlieu**: rare dans le sud du Québec, un était à Saint-Basile le 21 août (R. Belhumeur) et trois à Pointe-Yamachiche le 26 août (H. Brunoni *et al.*). **Barge marbrée**: des oiseaux à Barachois le 9 juin (E. Asselin, D. Jalbert), Isle-Verte le 9 août (D. Hamel), Saint-Vallier le 25 août (L. Roy, A. Déry, *et al.*) et Trois-Pistoles le 31 août (L. Simard). **Tournepierrre à collier**: trois oiseaux tardifs (ou peut-être hâtifs) à Yamachiche le 17 juin (J. Gélinas). **Bécasseau maubèche**: encore cet été, des migrateurs adultes ont séjourné dans l'archipel de Mingan, avec un nombre maximal de 1800 oiseaux le 7 août lors d'un décompte du SCF (*vide* C. Buidin). **Bécasseau d'Alaska**: un photographié dans la baie de Vaudreuil le 23 août (M. Dennis). **Bécasseau variable**: un oiseau agité découvert dans le parc national Pingualuit le 28 juillet, une autre évidence en faveur de la nidification dans la péninsule d'Ungava (M. Robert). **Bécasseau roussâtre**: plusieurs dans la province à partir de la mi-août; un s'est arrêté à Vaudreuil le 23 août (M. Bertrand, M. Dennis). **Mouette atricille**: 11 oiseaux signalés, un nombre un peu inférieur à l'an dernier. **Mouette de Franklin**: cinq oiseaux signalés. **Mouette rieuse**: l'espèce se porte bien aux IDLM où 15 nids et 35 indiv. furent dénombrés à la RNF de la pointe de l'Est le 20 juin (O. Barden *et al.*). **Sterne caspienne**: trois mentions sur la Basse-Côte-Nord signifient peut-être que l'espèce y niche toujours. **Sterne arctique**: une à Sainte-Catherine le 14 juin (P. Bannon). **Labbe à longue queue**: un ad. d'abord signalé à Ottawa a été revu du côté de Gatineau le 12 août (R. Belhumeur). **Guillemot marmette**: cette espèce est maintenant très prospère aux IDLM où plus de 9000 nicheurs sont répartis en deux colonies (JF. Rail). Un à Rivière-Ouelle le 20 juillet était la mention la plus à l'ouest cet été (JF. Rousseau). **Guillemot à miroir**: 500 entre Natashquan et Kégasha à la mi-juin (E. Samson *et al.*).

Tourterelle à ailes blanches: une à Danville le 13 juin (G. Lacroix, ph.). **Tourterelle triste**: deux à Radisson à la mi-juin étaient au nord de leur aire (L. Corriveau, S. Bouchard). **Coulicou à bec jaune**: quatre oiseaux signalés représentent un nombre estival intéressant. **Coulicou à bec noir**: très présent cet été, *e.g.* 11 à Bellecombe, Abitibi, le 25 juin (L. Imbeau). **Chouette lapone**: une à Saint-Anaclet le 19 juin (S. Rhéaume, J. Marcoux).

Pic à tête rouge: des oiseaux à Sainte-Foy le 7 juillet (D. Lapointe, M. Drolet) et Lac-Brome le 22 août (C. Laramée). **Pic à ventre roux**: un couple a niché pour la 2^e année consécutive à Châteauguay où un ad. et deux juvéniles étaient présents le 22 juin (A. Lévesque, P. Bannon, G. Duquette). Une femelle fut aussi repérée à Maskinongé le 1^{er} juillet (S. Morand, Y. Gauthier). **Tyran tritri**: un au km 274 sur la route de la Baie-James à la mi-juin était à la limite nord de son aire (M. Medler).

Pie-grièche migratrice: une photographiée à Les Cèdres le 7 juin (M. Dennis). **Troglodyte de Caroline**: un à Neuchâtel (Québec) 10-11 juin (F. Dorion, MA. Robitaille) transportait de la nourriture le 23 août (G. Cyr). Cinq jeunes ont été bagués au nid à Baie-d'Urfé le 23 août (B. McDuff, MA. Hudson, M. Gahbauer); un juv. a été vu à un autre endroit de Baie-d'Urfé le 10 août (J. Harwood Gregson). Cinq autres oiseaux signalés dans la région de Montréal étaient attendus, mais un à Rimouski 10-11 août était plutôt exceptionnel (L. Masson, *vide* J. Larivée). **Roitelet à couronne rubis**: un oiseau au Jardin botanique de Montréal le 19 juin (L. D'Amours) et un petit groupe le 16 juillet indiquent une nidification possible (S. Vanier). **Traquet motteux**: trois juvéniles à

Low 16 July (J. Brûlé), and one at Gaspé throughout the summer (D. Jalbert *et al.*). A flock of 102 birds at Roquemaure, Abitibi, 19 June represented a record summer count (P. Brousseau). **Whimbrel**: rare migrant in extreme southern Quebec, one was at Saint-Basile 21 Aug (R. Belhumeur) and three at Pointe-Yamachiche 26 Aug (H. Brunoni *et al.*). **Marbled Godwit**: singles at Barachois 9 June (E. Asselin, D. Jalbert), Isle-Verte 9 Aug (D. Hamel), Saint-Vallier 25 Aug (L. Roy, A. Déry, *et al.*), and Trois-Pistoles 31 Aug (L. Simard). **Ruddy Turnstone**: three northbound (or southbound) migrants at Yamachiche 17 June (J. Gélinas). **Red Knot**: again this year, southbound migrants, all adults, were staging in the Mingan Archipelago, with a max of 1800 birds 7 Aug during a CWS survey (*vide* C. Buidin). **Western Sandpiper**: one was photographed in Vaudreuil Bay 23 Aug (M. Dennis). **Dunlin**: an agitated bird was found in Pingualuit NP 28 July, providing further evidence for the breeding of the species in the Ungava Pen. (M. Robert). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: several throughout the province after mid-Aug; one reached Vaudreuil 23 Aug (M. Bertrand, M. Dennis). **Laughing Gull**: 11 birds reported, a little less than last summer. **Franklin's Gull**: five birds reported. **Black-headed Gull**: the species is doing well in the Magdalen Is. where 15 nests and 35 indiv. were reported at Pointe-de-l'Est 20 June (O. Barden *et al.*). **Caspian Tern**: three different reports from the Lower North Shore provide hope that the species is still nesting there. **Arctic Tern**: one at Sainte-Catherine 14 June (P. Bannon). **Long-tailed Jaeger**: an ad. first reported at Ottawa was also seen from Gatineau 12 Aug (R. Belhumeur). **Common Murre**: this species is now thriving in the Magdalen Is. where there were over 9000 nesting birds in two colonies this summer (JF. Rail). One at Rivière-Ouelle 20 July was the westernmost this summer (JF. Rousseau). **Black Guillemot**: 500 between Natashquan and Kégasha in mid-June (E. Samson *et al.*).

White-winged Dove: one at a Danville feeder 13 June (G. Lacroix, ph.). **Mourning Dove**: two at Radisson in mid-June were north of their current range (L. Corriveau, S. Bouchard). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: a total of four reports was excellent for summer. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: abundant this summer, *e.g.* 11 at Bellecombe, Abitibi 25 June (L. Imbeau). **Great Gray Owl**: one at Saint-Anaclet 19 June (S. Rhéaume, J. Marcoux).

Red-headed Woodpecker: singles at Sainte-Foy 7 July (D. Lapointe, M. Drolet) and Lac-Brome 22 Aug (C. Laramée). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: the species has nested for the second consecutive year at Châteauguay where an ad. and two juveniles were seen 22 June (A. Lévesque, P. Bannon, and G. Duquette). A female was also at Maskinongé 1 July (S. Morand, Y. Gauthier). **Eastern Kingbird**: one at Km 274 along James Bay Road in mid-June was near the northern limit of its range (M. Medler).

Loggerhead Shrike: one was photographed at Les Cèdres 7 June (M. Dennis). **Carolina Wren**: one at Neuchâtel (Québec City) 10-11 June (F. Dorion, MA. Robitaille) was seen carrying food 23 Aug (G. Cyr). Five young were banded in a nest at Baie d'Urfé 23 Aug (B. McDuff, MA. Hudson, M. Gahbauer); a juv. was seen at another location at Baie d'Urfé 10 Aug (J. Harwood Gregson). Five more birds were reported in the Montreal area, but one at Rimouski 10-11 Aug was quite exceptional (L. Masson, *vide* J. Larivée). **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: the species seems to have nested in the Montreal Botanical Gardens as evidenced by one bird 19 June (L. D'Amours) and several 16 July (S. Vanier). **Northern Wheatear**: three juveniles at Kangiqsujuag 29-30 July were a nice find and provided one of few nesting records for the

Please see **BIRDVIEWS** page 8.

BPQ Fall Weekend Trip to Tadoussac

Omens were good for the 18 participants driving up from Montreal on Friday: beautiful blue skies and trees showing particularly spectacular fall colours. After a delicious communal supper in Grandes-Bergeronnes, we left for the banding-station on the Tadoussac dunes. There, to a magical background of moonlight glinting on the water and eerie, amplified calls of Boreal and Northern Saw-whet Owls, we witnessed by flashlight no fewer than three Saw-whets being extracted from the nets. Afterwards we had a wonderful view of their banding without our disturbing them, thanks to a camera hooked up to an outside projector and screen.

Saturday and part of Sunday saw us at the Tadoussac Hawk Watch and various other locations, resulting in a trip count of 63 species. Bird of the Trip: American Pipit, hundreds seen in almost every location. Honorary Birds of the Trip: our Saw-whet Owls. Most unlikely sight: three pelagic Gray Jays perched on the rigging of a boat. Most amazing experience: standing on the cliffs at Pointe Rouge, and in just over an hour seeing over 50 migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks battling the wind, some at eye level. Most frustrating moment: missing Boreal Chickadees spotted by the rest of the gang. Well, I'll just have to go again - no hardship that!

Averill Craig

BIRDVIEWS continued from page 7.

Kangiqsujuaq 29-30 juillet représentaient une belle trouvaille et fournissaient une rare mention de nidification pour le Québec (M. Robert). **Étourneau sansonnet**: deux à Kuujjuaq le 26 juillet étaient très au nord de leur aire (M. Robert).

Paruline à ailes bleues: une à Saint-Anicet le 30 juin (G. Falardeau) et deux à Lac-Brome en juin où l'espèce niche depuis quelques années (JP. Santerre). **Paruline de Brewster**: pas moins de cinq oiseaux signalés. **Paruline obscure**: des migrateurs hâtifs ont été aperçus dans le sud du Québec dès la fin de juin. Des oiseaux solitaires furent signalés au parc Summit, Montréal, le 21 juin (PB) et au parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies le 24 juin (D. Daigneault, S. Denault), suivis par des nombres significatifs au cours de la 1^{re} semaine de juillet, e.g. 10 à Sainte-Foy le 4 juillet (M. Raymond) et 10 au Mont Royal le 6 juillet (P. Bannon). L'espèce semblait aussi plus fréquente sur les sites de nidification dans l'est du Québec et au nord du 50^e parallèle. Ces déplacements hâtifs sont bien documentés, mais leur importance semblait plus marquée cette année. **Paruline des pins**: un couple était à l'est de son aire à Saint-Onésime-d'Ixworth le 24 juin (JF. Rousseau). **Tangara vermillon**: un à Neuchâtel (Québec) le 25 août (G. Cyr).

Tohi à flancs roux: un à Natashquan le 17 juin était très loin de son aire (E. Samson *et al.*). **Bruant des plaines**: signalé davantage cet été, e.g. 14 mâles chanteurs en Abitibi 3-24 juin (L. Imbeau *et al.*). **Bruant de Le Conte**: 22 mâles chanteurs en Abitibi 2 juin-23 juillet (L. Imbeau *et al.*). **Bruant à couronne blanche**: au moins trois à quatre groupes familiaux à Kangiqsujuaq 29-30 juillet (M. Robert). **Junco ardoisé**: deux ad. à Kangiqsujuaq le 29 juillet étaient au nord de leur aire (M. Robert). **Cardinal rouge**: une femelle à Preissac, Abitibi, le 9 juin (M. Lefebvre).

Oriole des vergers: un mâle de 1^{er} été au parc-nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies le 7 juillet (A. Martin, S. Vanier, *et al.*). **Sizerin flammé**: un des événements marquants de l'été fut l'apparition hâtive de plusieurs groupes de juvéniles contenant jusqu'à 30 indiv. sur la rive sud du fleuve Saint-Laurent entre Montmagny et Rimouski dès la fin de juin. Aucun oiseau ne fut aperçu sur la rive nord du fleuve. Il est donc tentant de croire qu'un nombre important d'oiseaux a niché dans les Appalaches, plus au sud, où l'espèce a déjà niché sporadiquement. Le nombre élevé d'adultes et l'abondance de cônes dans la région le printemps dernier appuient cette hypothèse.

EXOTIQUES

Guêpier écarlate: un à Saint-Ferdinand 9-30 juin (D. Langlois, B. Lemay). **Chardonneret élégant**: un au lac Duparquet, Abitibi, le 9 juin (P. Letendre).

Region (M. Robert). **European Starling**: two at Kuujjuaq 26 July were well north of their range (M. Robert).

Blue-winged Warbler: one Saint-Anicet 30 June (G. Falardeau), and two at Lac-Brome in June where the species is known to nest (JP. Santerre). **Brewster's Warbler**: no less than five birds reported. **Tennessee Warbler**: a very early southbound movement was noted in s. Quebec starting in late June. Singles were at Summit Park, Montreal, 21 June (P. Bannon), and at Pointe-des-Prairies Nature Park 24 June (D. Daigneault, S. Denault), followed by significant numbers in the first week of July as evidenced by 10 at both Sainte-Foy 4 July (M. Raymond) and on Mount Royal 6 July (P. Bannon). The species also appeared more common on its breeding ground in e. Quebec and north of the 50th parallel. Early departure from the breeding ground is well documented for this species but the extent of the event appeared unparalleled this summer. **Pine Warbler**: a pair was east of its range at Saint-Onésime-d'Ixworth 24 June (JF. Rousseau). **Summer Tanager**: one at Neuchâtel (Québec City) 25 Aug (G. Cyr).

Eastern Towhee: one at Natashquan 17 June was very far from its range (E. Samson *et al.*). **Clay-colored Sparrow**: well reported this summer, e.g. 14 singing males in Abitibi 3-24 June (L. Imbeau *et al.*). **Le Conte's Sparrow**: 22 singing males in Abitibi 2 June-23 July (L. Imbeau *et al.*). **White-crowned Sparrow**: at least three to four family groups were found at Kangiqsujuaq 29-30 July (M. Robert). **Dark-eyed Junco**: two ads. at Kangiqsujuaq 29 July were north of their current breeding range (M. Robert). **Northern Cardinal**: a female at Preissac, Abitibi, 9 June (M. Lefebvre).

Orchard Oriole: a first-year male at Pointe-des-Prairies Nature Park 7 July (A. Martin, S. Vanier, *et al.*). **Common Redpoll**: one of the most remarkable events of the summer was the appearance of several groups of up to 30 juveniles in late June-July along the south shore of the St. Lawrence R. between Montmagny and Rimouski. No birds were reported from the north shore. It is tempting to believe that nesting occurred to a greater extent than usual in the Appalachian region to the south where the species has nested sporadically in the past. The high numbers of birds lingering late in the area last spring, coupled with a good cone crop, definitely support this hypothesis.

EXOTICS

Northern Carmine Bee-eater: one at Saint-Ferdinand 9-30 June (D. Langlois, B. Lemay). **European Goldfinch**: one at L. Duparquet, Abitibi, 9 June (P. Letendre).

Alderbrooke Marsh

BPQ Sanctuaries Series - No. 2

The Alderbrooke runs north/south through a shallow valley west of Sutton, about two hours away from Montreal. The area is heavily wooded and the valley has been sculpted by beavers, resulting in extensive pools and marshy wetlands that create a very rich habitat. Driving on any of the many surrounding dirt roads, you'd hardly know that it was there, which is probably a good thing for its inhabitants.

In 1995, Bird Protection Quebec came into possession of two moderately-sized parcels of land along the Alderbrooke. BPQ subsequently leased the property to the Alderbrooke Marsh Land Trust (AMLT), a small but active group whose mission is to protect the area from development.

On a glorious day in late August, Richard Gregson and Marie-Anne Hudson from the Sanctuaries Committee and Jean Harwood Gregson, BPQ's Treasurer, met up with Paul Coutu and Jean Bird of the AMLT to walk around the more accessible of the two sites (Lot 36). Locating and navigating around the plot without a local guide would have been impossible as the property lines were less than evident. The second piece of land (Lot 42) is virtually inaccessible as no trails lead into it, although a roadside access point was shown to us for a future visit.

Lot 36 is currently being converted by BPQ to joint ownership with Nature Conservancy Canada (and its counterpart in Quebec, *Conservation de la nature - Québec*) to further improve its protection. It comprises an extensive area of very dense mixed woodland along the marsh/river. Access is via a roadside field. There are no cleared or maintained trails, but given the many deer trails, there is little need once you manage to find yourself on the property. However, stout waterproof boots are definitely a necessity.

The weather during our mid-morning visit was hot and sunny, so bird activity was scant. Nevertheless, some excellent sightings were recorded including American Woodcock, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawk, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Red-

eyed Vireo. Evidence of deer was everywhere and we were told that moose could be seen if one was lucky (we were not). The mammal highlight was a large porcupine that regarded us sleepily from high in a tree.

The walk through Lot 36 highlighted the special nature of this site. We began in a fallow field and made our way through diverse habitats: shrubby raspberry vines, deciduous woodland, coniferous woodland, a mix of the two, flat and hilly terrain, streambeds, bogs and finally, a beautifully untouched marsh. One thing that really stood out to us, other than the raucous call of the fishing Belted Kingfisher, was that this marsh was devoid of Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites - a miraculous achievement, in our opinion! We saw no signs of human activity on the land. Because of its isolated and almost altogether hidden nature, Alderbrooke Marsh has been protected from human influence and infringement. The watchful eyes of the AMLT have helped tremendously in keeping it so.

The options for preserving more of this unique valley are mixed. At the moment, the AMLT is primarily focused on negotiating with landowners for the settlement of conservation easements on the more sensitive parts of the territory. This is a long and tedious process and will only happen if landowners feel the project is worthwhile and support the project. Sadly, this is not always the case. After our visit, all agreed that this glorious property is absolutely worthy of protection. How BPQ can help with the Alderbrooke project is something we shall have to consider.

By the way, our guides told us that canoe access along the Alderbrooke stream is perfectly possible and is particularly worthwhile in early to mid-May. We enthusiastically wondered about the possibility of organizing a flotilla next year, since all of us are eager to return to this wonderful site. Any takers?

Richard Gregson and Marie-Anne Hudson,
Co-chairs, Sanctuaries Committee

The Alfred B. Kelly Memorial Research Fund of Bird Protection Quebec

POQ offre des subventions d'une somme maximale de \$3000 pour la recherche visant directement l'étude des oiseaux du Québec. Il est maintenant temps de faire parvenir votre candidature pour 2008.

Ce concours est ouvert à tous, quelque soit le lieu de résidence ou le niveau de scolarité. Toute soumission sera évaluée selon son mérite et comparée aux autres soumissions reçues. Enfin, pour raison d'impôts, le numéro d'assurance sociale de l'auteur ou un numéro d'enregistrement d'organisation à but non lucratif doit être indiqué sur la soumission.

Pour obtenir les formulaires de soumission, contactez:

Protection des oiseaux du Québec: Comité de recherche

CP 43, Succ. B, Montreal, Québec H3B 3J5

Courriel: birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com

Date limite pour les formulaires complétés: 16 février 2008.

BPQ offers research grants for amounts up to a maximum of \$3,000 to support studies directly pertaining to the field of Quebec ornithology. Applications for the coming year are now sought.

Applications will be accepted from any interested persons regardless of place of residence or educational background and will be evaluated based on their merits and ranked in accordance with other applications received. For income tax purposes, a social insurance number or a charitable organization number must be supplied on all applications.

Requests for application forms should be sent to:

Bird Protection Quebec: Research Committee

PO Box 43, Station B, Montreal, Québec H3B 3J5

Email: birdprotectionquebec@gmail.com

Deadline for completed applications: 16 February 2008.

Field Trip Diaries

- 25/06/07 SUMMER SERIES #1 - PARC NATURE DE BOIS-DE-L'ÎLE BIZARD** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Weather: Light rain, then cloudy with sunny periods. 5 birders 52 species
Birds of the Day: Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Cooper's Hawk on the nest feeding at least three hatchlings.
Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Am. Bittern, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sora, Black Tern, Ruby-thr. Hummingbird, B. Kingfisher, Warbling Vireo, Red-br. Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Baltimore Oriole.
- 30/06/07 SUMMER SERIES #2 - TRANS-CANADA TRAIL, CARIGNAN** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Weather: Sunny, cool. 9 birders 33 species
Bird of the Day: Common Goldeneye.
Other Birds of Note: Black-cr. Night-Heron, Killdeer, Least Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Am. Crow, Cliff Swallow, House Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat.
- 07/07/07 SUMMER SERIES #3 - ST-ÉTIENNE DE BEAUHARNOIS** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Weather: Cloudy with sunny breaks, mild. 12 birders 57 species
Birds of the Day: Blue-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, Horned Lark.
Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, American Bittern, N. Harrier, Common Tern, Black Tern, Northern Rough-winged & Bank Swallow, Marsh Wren, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, C. Yellowthroat, Savannah Sparrow, Bobolink, H. Finch.
- 14/07/07 SUMMER SERIES #4 - MOUNT ROYAL CEMETERY** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Weather: Sunny w/cloudy periods, mild. 19 birders 30 species
Birds of the Day: Eastern Bluebird, House Wren.
Other Birds of Note: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Am. Kestrel, Chimney Swift, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, Indigo Bunting.
- 21/07/07 SUMMER SERIES #5 - PARC NATIONAL DE PLAISANCE** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Weather: Sunny, mid 20s, light breeze. 11 birders 53 species
Birds of the Day: Osprey, Eastern Meadowlark, Yellow-rumped Warbler.
Other Birds of Note: Wood & Ring-necked Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, N. Harrier, Am. Kestrel, White-thr. Sparrow.
- 28/07/07 SUMMER SERIES #6 - ÎLE DE LA VISITATION** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Weather: Warm, overcast. 17 birders 32 species
Bird of the Day: Peregrine Falcon.
Other Birds of Note: Wood Duck, Spotted Sandpiper, Chimney Swift, Baltimore Oriole.
- 05/08/07 SUMMER SERIES #7 - POINTE DE YAMACHICHE & BAIE DU FEBVRE** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Weather: Sunny, breezy, mild. 8 birders 58 species
Birds of the Day: Bald Eagle, Black-bellied Plover.
Other Birds of Note: Green-winged Teal, Common Loon, Northern Harrier, American Coot, Bonaparte's Gull, Black Tern, Purple Martin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bobolink.
- 11/08/07 SUMMER SERIES #8 - ÎLE ST-BERNARD** **Leader: Tom Long**
Weather: Sunny with cloudy periods, mid 20s. 13 birders 62 species
Bird of the Day: Philadelphia Vireo.
Other Birds of Note: Great Egret, Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Caspian Tern, House Wren, Warblers: Nashville, Magnolia, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart; Rose-breasted Grosbeak.
- 19/08/07 SUMMER SERIES #9 - RICHELIEU RIVER, SABREVOIS & NOYAN** **Leader: Sheldon Harvey**
Weather: Sunny, 20 degrees, breezy. 11 birders 61 species
Bird of the Day: Osprey.
Other Birds of Note: Blue winged & Green-winged Teal, H. Merganser, Am. Bittern, N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered & Red-tailed Hawk, Am. Kestrel, Solitary Sandpiper, C. Raven, Marsh Wren.
- 25/08/07 DUNDEE & STE-MARTINE** **Leader: Wayne Grubert**
Weather: Hot, humid, overcast. 9 birders 63 species
Birds of the Day: Bald Eagle, American Bittern, Wild Turkey.
Other Birds of Note: Blue & Green-winged Teal, Osprey, Wilson's Snipe, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Purple Finch.

Field Trip Diaries are compiled by Sheldon Harvey



Upcoming Field Trips - Prochaines Excursions

Coordinators: Martin Bowman, 613-347-1655; Wayne Grubert, 450-458-5498

Saturday 27 October - samedi 27 octobre

PARC-NATURE DE LA POINTE-AUX-PRAIRIES

Leader:

Diane Demers
514-729-3051
ddemers03@hotmail.com

8:00 AM Take Hwy 40 East to the exit for Boul. St. Jean-Baptiste/Marien (Exit 83). Follow the service road to the Boul. St. Jean-Baptiste (north) ramp. Take St. Jean-Baptiste north until Gouin Boulevard. Turn right (east) on Gouin Blvd. and follow it, looking for the blue signs indicating "*Parc-Nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies*." The entrance to the parking lot is on the right, located at the Pavillon des Marais section of the park, at 12,300 Gouin Blvd. East. Parking: \$7.00. **Half day.**

8 h 00 À partir de l'autoroute 40 est, prendre la sortie pour le boulevard St-Jean-Baptiste/Marien (sortie 83). Suivre la voie de service jusqu'à la bretelle d'accès du boulevard St-Jean-Baptiste nord. Continuer sur St-Jean-Baptiste nord jusqu'au boulevard Gouin. Tourner à droite, direction est, sur le boulevard Gouin. Continuer sur Gouin jusqu'au panneau bleu indiquant l'entrée du Parc-Nature de la Pointe-aux-Prairies. Le stationnement est situé au Pavillon des marais, 12 300 boulevard Gouin Est. Frais de stationnement : 7,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 3 November samedi 3 novembre

RIVIÈRE DES MILLES-ÎLES

Leader:

Mike Beaupré
450-666-6585
samo2000@videotron.ca

8:30 AM From Montreal take any highway that will intersect with Highway 440 in Laval. Take Highway 440 east, which eventually becomes Highway 25 north. Continue on Highway 25 north. Take exit 20 and turn left (west) on Blvd. des Mille-Îles. Continue on Blvd. des Mille-Îles until Blvd. Ste-Marie. Turn left (south) on Blvd. Ste-Marie. Drive a few hundred metres. Meet at the parking lot on the right, just in front of a white church and beside a park. A good choice of habitats to visit (field, forest, marsh, river) via a combination of driving and walking. Looking for waterfowl, raptors, migrating passerines. **Half day.**

8 h 30 À partir de Montréal, rejoindre l'autoroute 440 de Laval et rouler sur celle-ci en direction est. Cette autoroute devient éventuellement l'autoroute 25 nord. Continuer sur celle-ci et prendre la sortie 20. Tourner à gauche (direction ouest) sur le boulevard des Mille-Îles et continuer jusqu'à l'intersection avec le boulevard Sainte-Marie. Tourner à gauche (direction sud) sur celui-ci et parcourir quelques centaines de mètres. Le rassemblement a lieu dans le stationnement situé à droite, en face d'une église blanche et à côté d'un parc. Une bonne variété d'habitats seront visités (champ, forêt, marais et rivière) en combinant conduite automobile et marche. Espèces recherchées : sauvagine, rapaces et passereaux en migration. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 10 November - samedi 10 novembre

MORGAN ARBORETUM - ARBORETUM MORGAN

Leader:

Betsy McFarlane
514-457-9315
betsy.mcfarlane@sympatico.ca

8:00 AM From Montreal take Hwy 40 west. Take exit 44 (Morgan Blvd.). Turn left on Chemin Ste-Marie. Drive 1.4 km to second stop sign (at Arboretum road). Turn right. Drive 1 km to main parking on left. \$5.00 admission charge for non-Arboretum-members. **Half day.**
8 h 00 De Montréal, prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest, sortie 44 (boul. Morgan). Tourner à gauche sur le chemin Ste-Marie et continuer sur une distance de 1,4 km jusqu'au second arrêt (rue Arboretum). Tourner à droite et rouler sur une distance de 1 km jusqu'au stationnement principal, situé à gauche. Frais d'entrée : 5,00 \$ pour les non-membres. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 17 November - samedi 17 novembre

STE-MARTINE/ST-ÉTIENNE/BEAUHARNOIS

Leader:

Felix Hilton
514-631-3437
hiltonfb@sympatico.ca

8:00 AM Meet at the dam in Ste-Martine in the picnic area. Follow Hwy 138 west from the Mercier Bridge through Châteauguay and Mercier to Ste-Martine. The dam is on the Châteauguay River on the right-hand side immediately after the junction with Hwy 205 south. Dress warmly. **Half day.**

8 h 00 Rassemblement au barrage de Ste-Martine dans le stationnement du terrain de pique-nique. De Montréal, prendre le pont Mercier et continuer sur la route 138 ouest en traversant Châteauguay et Mercier jusqu'à Ste-Martine. Le barrage est situé sur la rivière Châteauguay, à droite, immédiatement après la jonction avec l'autoroute 205 sud. Il est conseillé de s'habiller chaudement. **Demi-journée.**

FIELD TRIPS continued from page 11.

Saturday 24 November - samedi 24 novembre

BOIS PAPINEAU, LAVAL

Leader:

Chuck Kling
514-277-2567

chuckk@videotron.ca

8:00 AM From Hwy 40 (Metropolitan Boulevard) take exit for Papineau Avenue north (Hwy 19). Cross bridge into Laval. At the third exit, take St. Martin east for approx. 1.5 km. On the left are a police garage and a community centre. Take the lane between them to a parking area at the back. **Half day.**

8 h 00 De l'autoroute 40 (boul. Métropolitain) prendre la sortie Papineau nord (rte 19). Traverser le pont qui mène à Laval. À la 3^{ème} sortie, prendre le boulevard Saint-Martin est et continuer sur une distance d'environ 1,5 km. À gauche se trouvent un garage de police et un centre communautaire. Prendre la ruelle entre les deux édifices et continuer jusqu'au stationnement situé à l'arrière. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 1 December - samedi 1 décembre

PARC-NATURE DU CAP-ST-JACQUES

Leader:

Wayne Grubert
450-458-5498

wgrubert@hotmail.com

8:00 AM Take Hwy 40 West. Exit Chemin Ste-Marie. Turn left to L'Anse-à-l'Orme Road. Turn right and continue to the end. Turn right on Senneville Road (Gouin Blvd.). Continue for 2 km to the *chalet d'accueil* of the park. Parking: \$7.00. **Half day.**

8 h 00 Prendre l'autoroute 40 ouest. Prendre la sortie pour le chemin Ste-Marie et tourner à gauche sur celui-ci. Continuer jusqu'au chemin de l'Anse-à-l'Orme. Tourner à droite sur celui-ci et continuer jusqu'au bout. Tourner à droite sur le chemin Senneville (boul. Gouin) et continuer sur une distance de 2 km jusqu'au chalet d'accueil du parc. Frais de stationnement : 7,00 \$. **Demi-journée.**

Saturday 8 December - samedi 8 décembre

CASSELMAN and STE-ROSE-DE-PRESCOTT, EASTERN ONTARIO

Leader:

Jacques Bouvier
613-524-1154

bouvier@magma.ca

8:30 AM* Meet in the parking lot of Tim Hortons in Casselman, Ontario. From Montreal, take Hwy 40 to the Ontario border. Continue on Hwy 417 to Exit 66 (Casselman). From the exit, continue north towards Casselman for a short distance. Tim Hortons is on the right as you head north. This will be mostly a driving trip with the possibility of a couple of short walks. Looking for Snowy Owl, Horned Lark and other winter birds of open country as well as other winter residents **Half day.**

8 h 30* Rassemblement au Tim Hortons à Casselman, Ontario. Emprunter l'autoroute 40 jusqu'à la frontière avec l'Ontario. Poursuivre sur l'autoroute 417 jusqu'à la sortie 66 (Casselman). À la sortie, continuer vers le nord en direction de Casselman sur une courte distance. Le Tim Hortons sera à votre droite. Excursion en voiture principalement, avec la possibilité de faire quelques courtes randonnées. Espèces recherchées : Harfang des neiges, Alouette hausse-col et autres oiseaux d'hiver se tenant dans des endroits à découvert en plus des résidents. **Demi-journée.**

*Note start time. Trip should take about an hour from Vaudreuil-Dorion.

Veillez noter l'heure du début de l'excursion. Compter environ une heure de voiture à partir de Vaudreuil-Dorion.

Saturday 15 December - samedi 15 décembre

MONTREAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Contact: Jeff Harrison

514-486-4943; email: dha@videotron.ca

Saturday 29 December - samedi 29 décembre

HUDSON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Contact: Alison Bentley

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